

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /087 W

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R 221202Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9490
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2724

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FI, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: ECEVIT VISIT TO FINLAND

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO FINLAND DECEMBER 16-19 AS PART OF A GENERAL SOCIAL DEMOCRAT-SPONSORED SCANDINAVIAN TOUR, FORMER TURKISH PRIME MINISTER AND REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT WAS GIVEN HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT. ECEVIT WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, AND MET WITH PRIME MINISTER MIETTUNEN, FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA, AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LEHTO.

2. IN ADDITION TO HIS "OFFICIAL" CALLS, ECEVIT SPENT SOME TIME WITH HIS FINNISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC HOSTS. HE MET WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH SDP CHAIRMAN SORSA AND SECRETARY GENERAL SUNDQVIST. ON TURKISH SIDE RPP INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY KOLUGLU AND MP ULMAN ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSIONS. CHAIRMAN SORSA SAID THAT THE SDP WAS HAPPY TO

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ACCEPT THE SUGGESTION THAT REGULAR CONTACTS BE MAINTAINED

BETWEEN THE SDP AND THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY.

3. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND THROUGH VARIOUS STATEMENTS, ECEVIT SAID THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE WERE A PRECONDITION FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS DISPUTE - WHICH SHOULD BE SOLVED ON THE BASIS OF A GREEK-TURKISH FEDERATION. ECEVIT ALSO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH RELATIONS WITH THE US AND NATO ARE STRAINED, TURKEY SHOULD NOT LEAVE NATO BUT SHOULD RELY MORE ON ITS OWN DEFENSE CAPABILITY. ECEVIT ALSO CALLED FOR MORE NORDIC INVESTMENT IN THE NEAR EAST REGION.

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